



Aruba's Special Olympics begin with a Torch Run this Friday

Celebrating the fifth anniversary of Aruba's Special Olympics, the opening ceremony of the marathon torch run will begin this Friday evening at 5:00 pm in front of the Marisol Building on L.G. Smith Boulevard. The Special Olympics committee headed by President Lila MacKay and Tuyo Werleman, the Director of the SVGA, the Foundation for the Mentally Challenged held a press conference last week to remind Aruba to support their special athletes and to inform them of the schedule of games.

This year they expect hundreds of athletes to participate, including delegations from Curacao, Bonaire, and for the first time, St. Martan. There will be three days of events commencing on taking place over the weekend finishing with the closing ceremony at Fort Zoutman on Sunday at 8:00 pm.

After the initial torch run, finishing at the Guillermo Trinidad Stadium in Dakota the games will commence with competitions in Track and Field and in Softball and Soccer. Saturday will see more competitions in Track and Field at the stadium starting at 8:00 am and Table Tennis matches at the Betico Croes Sport Center in Santa Cruz beginning at 3:00 pm. In addition, the Bacci Ball competitions will be held at the Marlboro Ball Park starting at 6:00 pm and Soccer matches in the Guillermo Trinidad Stadium will be at the same hour. Sunday will be spent at the Roly Bislick Olympic Pool in Saveneta for all the swimming competitions, starting at 8:30 in the morning, and finishing around noon.

All of Aruba is encouraged to get out and support their special athletes not only during the competitions, but also in raising funds to send or best special athletes to compete in the World Special Olympics to be held in Beijing, China in 2007. The Special Olympics Foundation has received substantial support from and expresses gratitude to their main sponsor Digicel, and are additionally for the goods and services during this week's games provided by Fruiteria Vergilio, Budget Rent-a-car, the CMB bank, Heineken, Diamonds Party Shop, The Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino, Unisales, Meta Corp, and Sha-Hai takeaway.

The route of the opening torch run will be down the Smith Boulevard to the Belgiestraat, from there to the traffic circle in Ponton, through Sero Blanco and then to the Stadium. The opening ceremony will introduce all the participants and include an entertaining performance by the Jazzy Dancers. All of Aruba is invited and welcome to cheer on their special athletes, they need your support to follow the motto of the International Special Olympics "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in my attempt."